1	2
Rajasthan	2457
Sikkim	7
Tamil Nadu	8000 (Approx
Uttar Pradesh	35781
A&N Islands	15
Chandigarh	3219
D&N Haveli	12
Daman & Diu	NIL
Delhi	
Lakshadweep	
Pondicherry	198

Effectiveness of Consumer Protection Act in Maharashtra

3607. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether *it* is a fact that the enforcement of the Consumer Protection Act has not been effective in Maharashtra ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ;

(c) what steps are being taken to see that the Act is effectively enforced; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the State Government lacks in its initiative to implement this Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) As per information available with the Central Government, the State Commission and 31 District Forums are functioning in the State of Maharashtra. A, total number of 33,553 cases were filed in the District Fora as on 31-12-1993 out of which 21,412 have been disposed of. Similarly, out of 1785 complaints and 2309 appeals filed in the State Commission. 925 complaints and 867 appeals were disposed of upto 31-12-1993,. As such, the Act appears to .be-effectively implemented in the State of Maharashtra."

Issue of Ration Cards to rich and wealthy persons

3608. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating not to issue or withdraw, if issued, ration cards "to. rich and wealthy persons ;

(b) if so, what are the details o the scheme ;

(b) if not, what is the point in giving ration cards to the rich and wealthy when they do not use them ; and

(c) whether Government intends to study this problem in great details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Central Government is not considering any proposal to adivse the State Governments not to issue or withdraw, if issued, ration cards to any category of citizens.

(c) and (d) Operational decisions for implementing the PDS such as issue of ration cards are matters under the administrative juridsiction of the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Advisory Council on PDS in its meeting held in March, *1993 set up* a Committee of State Ministers for formulating recommendations regarding a National Policy on PDS focussing on the need to ensure larger and more meaningful quantities of PDS commodities to the needy- and deserving sections. One of the recommendations made by the Committee of State Ministers is a follows :—

"In order to ensure that larger and more meaningful quantities of foodgrains reach the relatively needy and poorer sections it is inescapable that the relatively better off sections of the population are excluded from access to the PDS in respect of foodgrains". The Committee of State Ministers has not made any recommendation regarding non-issue or withdrawal of ration cards from any category of citizens. The Central Government has not taken any decision on the report of the Committee of Ministers. No specific time frame can be given in this regard.

Action against hoarders of food-grains

3609. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) how many drives were undertaken in 1993-94 against hoarders of foodgrains ;

(b) whether such drives had any effect on the prices of food-grains ;

(c) what instructions were issued by the Central Government to the State Governments with respect to these drives; and

(d) whether the drives will be further continued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The information is maintained calendar year wise and not financial year-wise. The same is listed below:

Year	No. of ... available	No. of person arrested	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted
1993	11283	3579	4959	2854
1994 (upto 31-3-94)	519	216	77	251